

Prince Edward Island

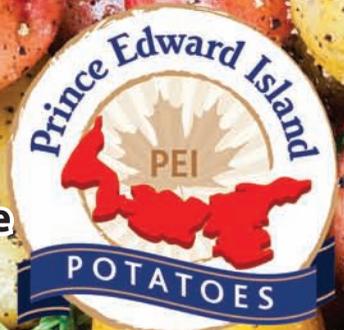
November/December 2018
Volume 19, Issue 6

POTATO NEWS

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In This Issue:

- PEI Potato Board AGM
- Common Sense Needed as We Adapt to Climate Change
- Safe Food for Canadians Act





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Prince Edward Island

POTATO NEWS

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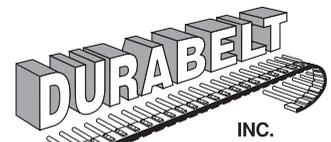
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Cover: Potatoes are a welcome addition to any meal but especially holiday meals. This image was part of a 2018 PEI Food Island Partnership shoot done by Stephen Harris Photography.



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Chairman's Comments

by PEI Potato Board Chairman, Jason Hayden



Harvest season 2018 - very few days of good weather in a row, lots of rain, trucks moving half full so they would make it out of the field without getting stuck, late nights in the field and worrying at home, almost everyone digging well into November - all tempered by neighbours helping neighbours and loyal harvest crews who showed up whenever it was fit to dig. This is one season we will not soon forget. In the end, it is estimated that approximately 6,800 acres were left in the field. 2018 was a season in which we just could not catch a break from Mother Nature.

Directors and staff are now busy keeping the financial difficulties resulting from weather issues front and centre with our governments and looking for ways we can increase the assistance available to growers through available programs.

Not to be ignored is all the stress we as farmers have been under, particularly during the harvest season. We should all look for ways to alleviate the stress by enjoying time with family and friends, taking part in activities we

enjoy and recognizing that if we can't get out from under our worries, there are resources available to provide someone to talk to through the PEI Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA) confidential counselling service that is available free of charge to Federation members and their families. No one within the PEIFA or the Department of Agriculture will know who uses the service. The services are accessible 24 hours a day by contacting the counselling coordinators – Jan Henry, Caroline LeBlanc or Frank Bulger directly at (902) 626-9787. Again, all calls and enquiries will remain confidential.

As we can see from fall production numbers coming in from the US and Europe and crop reports from Canada - global potato supplies will be tight during the 2018-2019 shipping season. Table prices for PEI potatoes are above last year at the present time and the expectation is that they will remain reasonable for the year given the supply situation. PEI fresh packers will be taking into consideration the need to stretch supplies and ensure that they provide product to their regular customers throughout the shipping season.

All growers are encouraged to stay in close touch with seed suppliers as post harvest test results become available to ensure that their seed is secured early for the 2019 season.

The impact of the weather conditions this fall on harvest are quite variable from farm to farm. The Board would like to hear from growers about how the adverse weather conditions during harvest have negatively affected them, their farms and employees to aid in our discussions with government about Ag Recovery and Crop Insurance. We will be sending out regular updates to growers on how these discussions are progressing.

It has been a difficult fall and will be a busy winter at the Potato Board Office. Please reach out to your local Board representatives if you have any concerns or issues.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Jason Hayden', is located at the bottom right of the page.



The warehouse crew at West Country Farms near Tyne Valley. Growers across PEI are grateful to these loyal employees who came at odd hours and worked in cold and wet conditions and late into the night in many cases to get the 2018 crop out of the ground. Left to right it's Janice Grigg, Pat Williams, Gene MacDougall, and Cindy Newcombe with Douglas Campbell in the back. Photo: Anne Phillips.

POTATO BOARD NEWS

New Chair and New Directors

The Potato Board met following the Annual Meeting on November 21st to change over to the new Board and elect the executive for the 2018-2019 year. The Board is pleased to announce that Jason Hayden has been elected to the Chair position. Jason has been on the Potato Board for four years, serving as the Tablestock Director for the Charlottetown District. He farms with his family in Pownal where they grow and pack fresh potatoes. Jason served as Vice-Chair in 2017-2018 and is looking forward to the challenges of his new position.



Chad Robertson Tablestock Director for Souris-Montague will serve in the role of Vice-Chair, and John Hogg, Processing Director for the Summerside District, will continue in the role of Secretary-Treasurer.

The Board is also pleased to welcome the following new

Directors:

Craig Wallace, Processing Director, West Prince District

Craig and his father, Johnny Wallace, grow processing potatoes for Cavendish Farms in Elmsdale. Craig has been a member of the Processing Council for one year. He has extensive experience with the contract details and has participated in negotiation training with the Potato Processing Committee. Craig and his wife Sonia live on the farm with their two daughters



John Visser, Tablestock Director, Summerside District

John farms with his brother Melis, brother-in-law Ian Gilroy and son Jordan in Victoria. They are involved in growing for the

Farmers are resourceful

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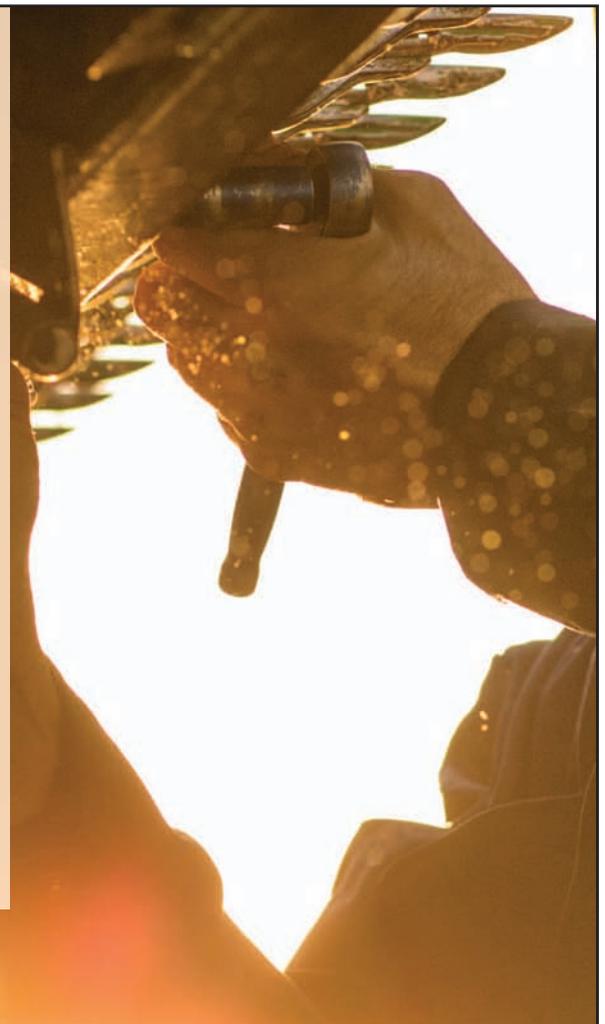
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tablestock, processing and seed sectors as well as buying and selling potatoes domestically and on the export market. This breadth of experience gives John a great background for a Board Director. He has served on the Processing Committee for 6 years.

Billy Cameron, Seed Director, Charlottetown District

Billy Cameron comes from Hampton on the South Shore. He has been farming full time with his father Gordon for 10 years. He has experience growing seed potatoes for local, North American and export markets and is well acquainted with all the regulations and phytosanitary issues that come with growing and shipping seed potatoes. Billy will be one of the younger Board members and is looking forward to representing the seed growers of this district.



These gentlemen will join the executive and current directors: Harris Callaghan, Tablestock West Prince; Glen Rayner, Seed, West Prince; David Francis, Seed, Summerside; Rodney Dingwell, Processing, Souris-Montague; Wayne Townshend, Seed, Souris-Montague; Mark MacMillan, Processing, Charlottetown; and Kyle Maynard, Young Farmer Representative.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

On October 1st, the Board's Assistant General Manager Brenda Simmons appeared before the House of Commons Finance Committee, which was holding hearings across Canada to receive input on factors affecting competitiveness. The Honourable Wayne Easter, MP for Malpeque, is the chair of this important committee, and the October 1st hearing took place in Charlottetown.

The Board's presentation included recommendations on CFIA's cost recovery initiative (that instead of increasing fees, CFIA should cut the current fees paid by the potato industry by 50% as we are already paying much more than other sectors); access to crop protectants, which is becoming more restrictive each year; agricultural research and

knowledge transfer; transportation; trade negotiations and market access; and labour. Committee members asked good questions and issues like transportation and labour were raised by other presenters that day as well. The East Prince Environmental Association also presented that day, and focused on the need for agricultural research that links closely with farmers' needs.

Household Survey Taking Place

A household telephone survey took place in PEI during November, 2018. This was done in follow-up to a survey that was completed in late 2014 to get a picture of what the average Islander thinks about a number of issues facing the potato industry. The questions covered topics from financial issues to environmental sustainability. The results of this survey will help the industry to measure the impact of the Board's communication efforts over the past number of years and topic areas in which we should continue to focus effort in providing accurate information to the media and the public. Results of the survey will be published in the new year.

Presentation for AAFC Potato Breeding Review

On September 19th, the Canadian Potato Council (CPC) was invited to provide input, via webinar, to a panel conducting an external review of AAFC's Potato Breeding program. Representatives from the CPC put together a presentation including their view of the strengths and weaknesses of the current program and recommendations for moving forward.

The strengths cited included the strong infrastructure currently in place: research scientists at AAFC, a network of collaborators across the country to carry out regional breeding line evaluation trials; industry interest in new varieties and the clear need to develop new varieties suited to the short season climate and production environments specific to Canadian regions.

With regard to challenges, the CPC highlighted the need for AAFC to seek and value industry engagement, the fact that more clarity is needed on the commercialization process of

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new varieties from this program and solving the bottleneck in provision of nuclear stock that currently exists when new lines are released for commercial production.

Concluding remarks included the following points:

- We have a valuable program and the required infrastructure in place to serve the needs of the Canadian potato industry that we need to maintain.
- A Canadian potato breeding program is important for continued growth and competitiveness of the Canadian potato industry.
- There are improvements to be made to create a program that will serve our needs into the future and this will require the will to make changes and strong collaboration and commitment to the program between both AAFC and industry.
- There is a need for an Industry Advisory Group with a defined mandate:
 - Strategic (advice, priorities) and
 - Decisive (review of line data and input on selections).

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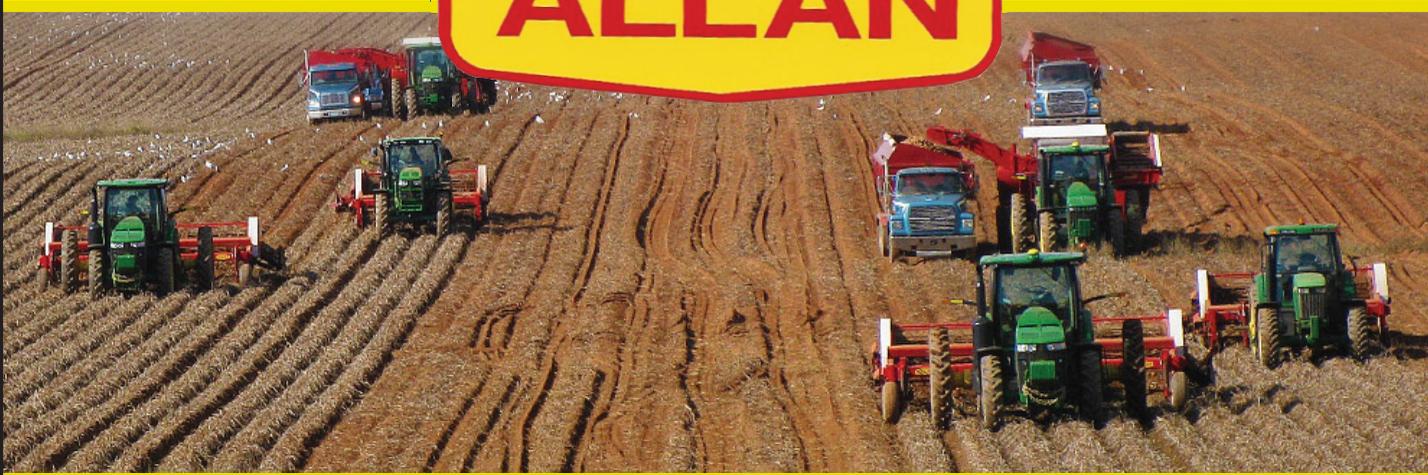


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www.realpotatoes.com/index.php/employment-opportunities

AAFC will be taking the findings of the external review into account as they make plans for the future. A variety evaluation activity, including a collaborative piece between AAFC and industry, is included in the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for the next four years. This will provide time for industry supported change to the program to take place and to plan for targeted investment in the AAFC Potato Breeding Program to support the Canadian potato industry.

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Island Farmers Show Support for Neighbour

by Mary Kay Sonier

Island farmers showed support for fellow farmers Brookfield Gardens at their sentencing hearing in provincial court on November 13, 2018.

A fishkill, involving 1,100 fish, occurred in 2014 following a heavy rainfall event. After an investigation, Brookfield Gardens was charged under the Federal Fisheries Act with permitting the deposit of a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish. In an initial case in provincial court, the judge found that Brookfield Gardens took reasonable precautions to prevent run-off getting into the river from a field it was leasing to grow carrots. The decision was appealed by the federal government, a new trial was held and a different judge found the farm guilty.

PEI Federation of Agriculture Chairman David Mol, Joanne Driscoll from the PEI Horticultural Association and Barry Murray from the Kensington North Watershed Group all made public comments after the sentencing hearing.

Mol commented, “The PEI farming community strongly supports Brookfield Gardens and the Dykerman family who have taken generations to build a reputation that is widely known for being leaders in environmental stewardship and successful farming practices. They have been held up as examples of how to farm in a sustainable manner that respects the environment. The farming community strongly supports environmental protection – and believes farmers have an integral role on this front. The farming community does not condone the killing of fish, and believes farmers must take reasonable measures and practice their due diligence to mitigate and eliminate the risk of such an event. In this case, Brookfield Gardens took reasonable measures – even going beyond the provincial laws governing those measures - to mitigate their risk. They are simply a victim of extreme weather and a changing climate.”

Driscoll supported these comments and stated that,

“After originally being found not guilty as a result of following practices that were considered due diligence, Brookfield Gardens has now been found guilty, despite going above and beyond provincial regulations regarding buffer zones and following normal farming practices.” She asked “How can farmers deal with standards they are not aware have changed or change based on individual interpretation?”

The Federation of Agriculture and the PEI Potato Board have proposed a new Task Force with representatives from the farming community and both provincial and federal levels of government to work together on ways farmers can adapt practices to withstand the extreme weather events we are experiencing and minimize negative environmental impact, while staying in business.



David Mol, Chairman of the PEI Federation of Agriculture speaks to reporters outside of the provincial court following the sentencing hearing for Brookfield Gardens. Members of the agricultural industry were there to support Brookfield Gardens and to call for a Task Force to help farmers deal with the impacts of climate change.



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Repairs are made after heavy rains damage boat launch in Montague area in 2016. Photo: Eastern Graphic.

Common Sense Must Prevail as We Adapt to Climate Change

Climate change is affecting us all – from city dwellers and businesses to cottage owners, fishermen and those producing food on PEI.

The UPEI Climate Lab, at the request of the PEI government, prepared a draft report of “PEI Climate Change Adaptation Recommendations” released in September 2017 that outlined how climate change could impact everything in the province from agricultural practices to public health and safety to tourism, and provided 86 recommendations in 10 key sectors of Island society. These included recommendations for agriculture, energy, fisheries and aquaculture, insurance, properties and infrastructure among others. **There is recognition in the report that adaptation will be a gradual process and that the required changes will not take place overnight.** The provincial government is now working on how to address these recommendations.

There seems to be recognition, and even acceptance, of the need for adaptation in the operation and subsequent regulation of many sectors. However, due to time and financial limitations, all the required changes cannot take place immediately.

On May 11, 2017 it was reported on CBC that higher outflows from the Stratford sewage facility closed adjacent shellfishing areas in the Charlottetown Harbour and Hillsborough River affecting up to 100 fishermen. According to a town official as quoted by CBC, “Recently because of all the heavy rains, our flows have gone up somewhat. It

is something that all facilities experience during heavy rainfalls.” Charlottetown has also faced issues in the past with sewage overflow, in times of heavy precipitation, that have resulted in closures of shellfishing areas without being taken to court by the federal government.

In recognition of the need to upgrade infrastructure to deal with climate change, funding has been announced that will help municipal utilities upgrade water treatment systems to deal with increased pressures over time:

In June 2017, \$29.8 million was announced for 26 water infrastructure projects across the Island. The costs will be shared between the Government of Canada, the Province and the municipalities involved. When this is added to the twenty clean water and wastewater projects that were announced for Prince Edward Island on August 3, 2016 at the signing of the Canada-Prince Edward Island bilateral agreement, and three more projects announced for Charlottetown and Stratford on May 25, 2017, a total of 49 projects are now approved under cost sharing programs for Prince Edward Island.

More recently, in mid-August 2018, Central PEI experienced a rainfall that dropped a forecasted 50 to 132 mm of rain in just a few hours. Sediment runoff from the construction of the Cornwall By-pass, including crushed recycled glass used in bedding material in road construction, overcame the sediment trap and silt fence that had been installed. A technical advisor to the Central Queens Wildlife



Runoff from heavy rains on August 17, 2018 at the construction site of the Cornwall By-pass in Clyde River - Left : heavy runoff overcomes the silt fence erected for runoff mitigation and does not stop the waterway from running red. Right: inset shows a heavy flow of water leaving the construction area. The main photo shows crushed recycled glass, used in bedding material in road construction, is left behind and can be seen the next week by the stream. Photos: G. Donald and L. Docherty.



Areas of Charlottetown Harbour have been closed to shellfish harvesting several times in recent years due to sewage overflows from Charlottetown and Stratford during heavy rainfall events.

Federation was quoted as saying, “You could say they should have lined the whole thing with grass, but it would have been a formidable chore because it’s so steep.” He went on to describe the incident as “a little bit of pain for future gain.” Environment Canada does not intend to lay charges related to this incident of runoff into nearby waterways.

This attitude of acceptance for environmental damage as a result of human actions, outlined in the cases above, seems to be in stark contrast to the treatment farmers receive when they are farming fields that are subject to runoff from extreme weather events, despite efforts such as expanded buffer zones to mitigate runoff.

There is considerable work going on in the agriculture community to adapt to climate change. PEI farmers have been working with the Department of Agriculture since the 1980’s on soil conservation work. This work is ongoing but funding is limited and annual dollars are often fully subscribed within minutes of a program opening. Under the Alternative Land Use Services Program, which provides small annual payments to landowners for practices that contribute to a healthy environment, over 3,562 ha of land have been taken out of production to install soil conservation structures such as 1.3 million feet of diversion terraces and 2.4 million feet of grassed waterways. Many farmers have also adopted field practices such as residue tillage, planting cover crops, plowing down green manure crops, etc. Despite these efforts, they continue to face court charges and exceptionally large fines for the consequences of weather events that are out of their control.

Is it realistic to expect that every field on PEI be managed immediately to withstand “one in 100 year” weather events that are becoming more and more common in recent

years? Just as municipalities and ports in PEI are working together with provincial and federal levels of government to gradually upgrade infrastructure to withstand these events, so do farmers and government have to continue to work together to improve the ability of fields in agricultural production to withstand environmental damage caused by extreme weather events. It is counterproductive to try to accomplish this through the courts. **Court cases should be reserved for those who willfully ignore laws and regulations or negatively impact the environment through negligence, and not to penalize those who are doing their best but are subject to events beyond their control.**

In 2017, the Department of Environment under then Minister Robert Mitchell, established the Agri-Environmental Unit with a focus on working with farmers to help them adapt to new environmental regulations and reduce negative environmental impact. In many cases this has been a successful effort, however, we have seen in some instances involving run-off a continued preference at the provincial level for prosecution over support for continued improvement. This path at the provincial level can then provide the support and push for prosecution by the federal government.

For the past four years, the PEI Potato Board has asked officials at Environment and Climate Change Canada to meet and explain what happened in the field that led to the Brookfield Gardens case. The Potato Board hoped to gain information on what growers should be doing differently to avoid potential future environmental problems and charges. Over this time period, Environment and Climate Change Canada staff have repeatedly refused requests to meet for the reason that “the case was before the courts.”

This means that four years have gone by without meaningful dialogue and insight on changes to field practices that would have helped both farmers and the Island environment.

The Board also questions if this four year court challenge and others like it are the best use of taxpayers dollars and a productive way to improve the situation going forward.

It was heartening to see the support in the November 17, 2018 Guardian Editorial “Prosecution or Persecution?” in recognition of the unrealistic expectations put on those farming the land and contributing the economy of our province. **Enforcement officials and courts can only do their job under the regulations as they currently exist. It is time for all sides to come together and fix the problems with current laws and regulations and stop treating our farmers as criminals when extreme weather hits.**

Farm Day In The City

Farm Day in the City enjoyed another year of spectacular weather and record crowds in downtown Charlottetown on September 30. The PEI Potato Farmers were again the title sponsor. Grower volunteers and Board staff distributed shopping bags, talked with visitors about potato production and crop rotation, offered opportunities for the kids to enjoy tricycle tractor rides and all the fixings to make a Mr. Potato Head, and served up baked potatoes from the W.P. Griffin baked potato cart and fries from the Cavendish Farms Fry Wagon. It was once again a great opportunity for positive interaction with the public in PEI.

Photos clockwise from top left: Potato grower John Phillips, right, answers questions about crop rotation from an interested visitor; Patsy Dingwell, left, serves up a container of French fries from the Cavendish Farms fry wagon; potato farmer Adam Townshend with his daughter Ivy who is proud to say that potatoes are in her roots!; on overhead view of the crowd on lower Queen Street during the event; (left to right) Emma Jean Griffin and Elliot Watters from W.P. Griffin with Debbie Hirst, Board staff member, keep the baked potatoes coming. Photos: Mary Kay Sonier, Wayne Townshend and Discover Charlottetown.



Annual General Meeting

The Prince Edward Island Potato Board AGM was held on November 21, 2018 in the meeting room of the Potato Board Office in Charlottetown.

Chairman Darryl Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. He invited the Honourable Robert Henderson, PEI Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, to provide opening remarks. Minister Henderson thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet several times through the year, most recently to tour some farms in the western end of the province to see firsthand the impact the drought had on yield in that area. He assured growers that his department would work with the Board to use the tools and programs they have available to assist growers who will be experiencing hurt as a result of the drought and the wet harvest season. He also highlighted some positive events that had taken place over the last year including the launch of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership in April of 2018, the work of the Ag Resources Division and grower participation in the stewardship programs, and the placement of a new weather station in O'Leary. He reminded growers that his

door was always open if there were issues that they wished to discuss.

Darryl thanked Minister Henderson for his participation in the Board's Annual Meeting. He then presented his Chairman's report. Some of the highlights of his year as Board Chairman included the opportunity to attend a supper event that federal Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay hosted during the visit of US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue last summer, representing PEI potato growers at meetings with the federal Minister of Agriculture, the PEI Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Potato Council and various government standing committees. It was also a pleasure to represent the Potato industry at events such as the Potato Blossom Festival, the PEI Shellfish Festival, the launch of a pilot breakfast program at O'Leary Elementary school and Ag Literacy week. Darryl thanked all the Board Directors for their dedication and support and thanked his wife and business partners at home who provided him with the time and support needed to serve on the Board for six years, particularly the past year that he spent as Chairman.

Following his report, Darryl invited Patrick Trainor of BDO to present the financial statements of the Board for the 2017/2018 year of operations. Although a slight deficit had been budgeted, the actual financial statement showed a small surplus. Overall both revenue and expenses were down. Full details are available in the Annual Report booklet which is available from the office for interested growers who were unable to attend the meeting. Please call 902-892-6551 to request a copy.

General Manager Greg Donald and staff members provided short presentations on operational plans for the upcoming year in the areas of Research and Environment, Seed, Tablestock and Processing. The Board will be embarking on an update of the five year strategic plan and consultation with growers will begin this winter.

A discussion then took place on the proposed change to the Potato



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Provincial Minister of Agriculture Robbie Henderson (far right) speaks to an attentive crowd at the PEI Potato Board 2018 Annual General Meeting in Charlottetown. Photos: M.K. Sonier.

Board Districts and requirements for a producer to be eligible to vote and/or sit as a Board Director. A Working Group struck by the Board had been looking at this issue over the past year and surveys had been sent to growers to obtain feedback on several options. The working group report included the following recommendations:

1. Move from 4 districts back to 3 districts, with geographic boundaries adjusted in order to make the number of production units per district more similar.
2. There would be 3 directors elected per district, with equal representation by sector (seed, table, processing) and 3 directors elected “at large” from across the province, also with equal representation by sector. This would maintain a 12 member Board of Directors.
3. The 10% ownership requirement in your farm’s business to be eligible to vote and / or serve as a director will be waived if the individual is a direct family member of the owners and derives the majority of his/her primary

income from the production unit (in addition to the existing requirement that the individual must be at least 18 years of age). Please note that the provision for each production unit to be able to name up to three people to vote would not change.

All the recommendations were supported by growers present. This will now go to the next Board meeting for final discussion and decision on how to move ahead. Any changes will take several months to put in place and must be approved by Marketing Council.

Market updates were provided by Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager of the United Potato Growers of Canada and Mark Phillips, Market Information Officer with the PEI Potato Board.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion on the harvest losses experienced by the industry this fall and ways in which this can be addressed for our growers and our customers.



Potato Board Chairman Darryl Wallace presents donation cheques of \$2,000 to (left) John Scales representing the 4H Trust, and to (right) Danya O’Malley from PEI Family Violence Prevention Services. A \$1,500 donation was also made to Farmers Helping Farmers. The donation money was raised from French fry and baked potato sales at Farm Day in the City 2018.





Fall Harvest 2018

On November 5-7, members of the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) joined together for three days of focused advocacy work on Parliament Hill. The over-arching theme for this year's event focused on our industry's competitiveness. As such, industry leaders proposed innovative solutions to facilitate international trade, improve the health of Canadians, improve the administration of labour programs, and support the regulation of crop protection products. The fresh produce industry looks forward to continuing these conversations with members of Parliament and senators in the months and years ahead.

These meetings are proven to work. Last year, the Fall Harvest meetings led to several recommendations being included in the House of Commons Finance Committee's pre-Budget report to the Finance Minister, just one month after the event. A similar degree of traction was expected this year, as CHC and CPMA members raised the profile of the fresh produce industry and its issues.

ISSUES BRIEF
2018/2019

A Roadmap to Competitiveness

14,237
horticulture farms in
Canada produced over
\$5.4 BILLION
in direct farm cash receipts
in 2017.¹

In 2016, **47%** of Canadian fruit and vegetable production was exported, representing a farm gate value of over **\$2.8 BILLION.**¹

98% of Canada's fruit and vegetable producers are small businesses.²

In 2016, the industry supported approximately **\$4 BILLION IN TOTAL ACCRUING TAXES** to provincial and federal governments combined.³

It is expected that the labour gap in Canadian horticulture will increase to **46,500** by 2025.⁴

¹Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2018
²Statistics Canada, 2016
³Conference Board of Canada, 2017

⁴Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, 2016.

Industry teams met with elected officials and high-level civil servants to communicate industry messages. The participation of delegates and sponsors from the CHC and CPMA membership is the key to success in elevating the voice of the produce industry above the many vying for the attention of our government. This will be the last Fall Harvest before the 2019 general election.

“The produce industry supply chain has an estimated economic impact of \$14 billion in real GDP in Canada, while supporting over 181,000 jobs in the Canadian economy,” said Brian Gilroy, CHC President. “Our sector is not only critical to the health of Canadians, but also to the economic well-being of families across the country, and Canada as a whole.”

The fresh fruit and vegetable industry is a vibrant part of the Canadian economy and works tirelessly to improve the health of Canadians while growing the economy. Now is the time for practical solutions that will improve the industry’s competitiveness and ensure we can compete in the global marketplace.

Brenda Simmons, Assistant General Manager of the PEI Potato Board, attended in 2018 in place of our grower representatives who were still harvesting potatoes.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Promoting international trade and investment with export markets is a priority for the Canadian produce sector. As Canada pursues new free trade agreements and renegotiates existing agreements, we are committed to working with the government to uphold the principles of free and fair trade. In order to grow Canadian produce exports and help achieve the government’s agri-food export goal of \$75 billion by 2025 while supporting demand in Canada for a range of products, we are actively working with stakeholders to reduce non-tariff trade barriers including harmonization of phytosanitary regulations, maximum residue limits, and payment issues.

BACKGROUND

- With most produce trade already tariff-free, barriers to trade within the sector are principally non-tariff and require support from the federal government to address.
- Because Canadian growers adhere to strict food quality standards and labour laws, as well as environmental standards such as carbon pricing, their costs of production are often higher than in other countries. Growers are forced to absorb the costs on increasingly lower margins.
- The ability to export to, or import from, a new market is dependent on assessments of risks and recognition of plant protection systems by the trading countries’ plant health regulators.
- Requirements that are not science-based or essential to security act as effective non-tariff trade barriers between countries and must be eliminated.
- Future free trade agreements must include robust dispute resolution mechanisms.
- The Asia-Pacific market is a key opportunity for the Canadian fresh produce industry.

ACTION REQUIRED

Canada’s fruit and vegetable industry urges the federal government to:

- Work with the Chinese government to formally launch free trade negotiations and address issues of slow pay and no-pay through an enforceable dispute resolution mechanism.
- Seek greater transparency and consistency of China’s trade and border regulations, specifically as it relates to phytosanitary requirements.
- Quickly ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to ensure Canada is among the first six countries to ratify the agreement.
- Ensure that new and renegotiated free trade agreements create the foundation for mutually recognizing food safety systems.
- Ensure that agreements are based on sound science and address an appropriate risk based approach to trade including sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.
- Firmly oppose the introduction of any tariff that could impact the availability, accessibility and affordability of food in the Canadian marketplace and Canadian produce in our export markets.
- Regulate imports to ensure foreign produce meets Canada’s high standards, including labour, environment, and of course the quality and safety of the produce.

CROP PROTECTION

Fruit and vegetable growers rely on a wide range of crop protection strategies, such as integrated pest management plans and government-approved pesticides, to ensure the health of crops, the safety of Canadians, and Canada’s overall food security. Plant health, biosecurity and up-to-date pest risk analyses are all key components to market access and are important to the protection of the environment. The Canadian produce industry requires crop protection management policies and programs that support market access and that promote the economic viability and competitiveness of Canada’s fruit and vegetable growers, while providing safe, healthy food to consumers across the country.

BACKGROUND

- Modern technology, such as pesticides, are essential agricultural tools. Pesticides are used to control diseases, insect pests, and invasive weeds that affect the quality, safety, and availability of Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables.
 - Under Health Canada, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for regulation, registration, and re-evaluation of all active ingredients in pesticide products.
 - Pesticides are thoroughly evaluated for environmental and human health concerns with large amounts of scientific data and are well-regulated at all levels of government. Data are acquired by industry, academia, and governmental agencies, and are both expensive and time consuming to collect.
 - The PMRA conducts risk assessments on all pesticide products. Risk is defined by both exposure and toxicity and can be mitigated by reducing either (or both) of these factors.
 - Under the *Food and Drugs Act*, maximum residue limits (MRLs) are determined for imports and exports of all food or feed. MRLs ensure pesticides are being used within the legally established limits of the countries involved, and to ensure human and environmental health and safety.
- that, beyond the human and environmental health obligations, the PMRA obligations must be extended to a consideration of the potential impacts of their decisions on Canadian agriculture through a legislative requirement for an analysis of risk/benefit as part of all regulatory decisions.
- Provide essential funding for plant health agencies (PMRA and Pest Management Centre) and their initiatives, taking dramatically increased workloads into consideration. More than 350 re-evaluations and special reviews are either underway or will commence in the next 10 years. Without the time or sufficient resources needed to conduct thorough scientific reviews and to make science- and data-based conclusions, hasty decisions can be made that are detrimental not only to growers, but to the Canadian economy.
 - Provide a sufficient budget to PMC to get innovative new active ingredient products approved for market in order to strengthen the crop protection tool box.
 - Encourage science-based harmonization of phytosanitary requirements and MRLs with our trading partners, which will ease technical barriers that may result in delayed or rejected fresh produce at the border.
 - Ease the burden on PMRA by initiating joint registrations and re-evaluations to support the accessibility of crop protection products that align and harmonize product access across North America.

ACTION REQUIRED

Canada’s fruit and vegetable industry urges the federal government to:

- Modify PMRA’s mission and regulatory decision-making process to reflect

Fox Island Showcases the Industry for Visitors in 2018



by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

PEI potato farmers own the Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm which is operated via the PEI Potato Board. Since its beginnings in 1962, Fox Island has served two roles for the Island potato industry - as an early generation seed farm producing valuable seed for on-Island use and as an education and industry showcase resource.

Each year the farm welcomes both local and international visitors to the scenic location of Cascumpec in West Prince. The Board Room, looking out over Northport Harbour and the mouth of the Mill River, provides an ideal venue to welcome visitors, show a video or make a powerpoint presentation about the PEI potato industry and provides a comfortable spot for further discussion.

The full tour of the farm includes views of the tissue culture bank/growth room where plantlets of all the commonly used and niche varieties are maintained year round, a demonstration of the plantlet propagation process, a walk around the farm yard to see the screenhouse facilities for nuclear seed generations and, if time of season permits, a wagon tour to the fields to view the different seed potato field plots.

Some of the elements of the PEI potato industry highlighted during a tour include:

Environmental Sustainability: Fox Island has an Environmental Farm Plan and has participated in hedgerow planting programs in the past. As staff explain, Fox Island is similar to the majority of Island Farms in that we have mitigative structures in place to limit any potential leak of deleterious substances into the environment including a cement containment structure around our fuel tanks and a stand alone pesticide storage building. As well, with so

much coastline on the farm property, we have very visible buffer zones and property in grassed headlands. We do pest monitoring through the Aphid Alert program and also maintain a weather station during the growing season.

In 2018 we had an intern hired through the AAFIC Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative who completed a thorough coastline assessment and made recommendations for areas in which we can start to put measures in place to limit coastal erosion that is affecting our land base. Our intern, Zachary Phillips, also completed a Landscape and Nature Conservation Plan for the property with recommendations for small changes we can make to enhance wildlife corridors and habitat for pollinators at Fox Island. We will be able to highlight these initiatives in future tours.

Early Generation Seed Production: We always stress that many of the elements seen at Fox Island are duplicated at private early generation operations across the province and all nuclear production units must meet requirements



Board General Manager Greg Donald discusses farm practices with growers on a Tour of Fox Island fields.

set out by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Fox Island facilities include:

- A closed production system with tissue culture plantlets is the only source of new germplasm coming onto the property.
- Specialized facilities including screenhouse/greenhouse facilities for nuclear tuber production. (These facilities meet CFIA requirements and are inspected annually).
- Disinfection facilities and equipment - a disinfectant bath and equipment to disinfect any vehicles coming onto the farm property.
- Annual disinfection of all storage facilities, boxes and equipment, followed by equipment disinfection as required through the growing season.
- Use of rowcover on our first generation field plot to limit the potential for virus infection by aphids during the growing season.
- Box storage to maintain separation between the many lots grown. The storage has ventilation and humidity control and the use of refrigeration in the spring to maintain seed quality.
- Production of commercial public and private varieties as well as niche and market garden varieties.

Research and Demonstration: The first priority at Fox Island is quality seed production and no research or demonstration is initiated that may compromise the quality of seed for sale. The farm is able however to include some trial or demonstration plots to look at options such as bed planting for whole seed production, different seed spacing for different varieties, various options for fall cover crops, nutrient options, etc. As on any farm, Fox Island staff are interested in trying out new production methods that will make the farm more efficient and productive.

Visitors to Fox Island

In the last few years the Board has been pleased to welcome diverse groups of visitors to the Fox Island farm. In late July-early August, an Open House is commonly held when growers, dealers and industry members are invited to come and tour the facilities.

Usually every second year we welcome high school Agri-Science classes to the farm. In 2018, classes from Kinkora and Kensington came for a tour. In previous years we have also hosted classes from Westisle and Bluefield High Schools.

Hosting government groups provides the opportunity for Board staff and directors to interact with our elected officials. In 2016 and 2018, the Provincial Caucus has held a summer meeting in the Board room at Fox Island. The Board



Heads of Mission from countries including Thailand, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Latvia listen to a presentation on the contribution of early generation seed facilities to a healthy potato industry in PEI.

executive as well as the General Manager and Assistant General Manager were provided time to meet with Caucus and discuss industry challenges and priorities. The group also had time for a quick tour of the farm facilities.

In October 2018, PEI was host to 35 Heads of Missions from around the globe (Ambassadors from these countries who are posted in Canada) attending the 2018 Economic Diplomatic Mission. A group of these Heads of Mission including those from Philippines, Dominican Republic, Thailand, and Latvia, among others visited Fox Island on one of their optional tours.

The latest visit we had in the fall of 2018 was from a CBC crew doing a profile of how Fox Island supports the industry by propagating new varieties to help keep our farmers competitive in the marketplace.

In recent years we have also received guests from Venezuela, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic. We always welcome visitors at the industry's Elite Seed Potato Farm to help promote the Island industry. Anyone wishing to arrange a visit please contact the Board office at (902) 892-6551.



Members of the provincial caucus learn about the specialized facilities used for nuclear seed potato production at Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm.

Certified Seed Acres

Certified Seed Acreage*

	Prince Edward Island			Canada		
	2018*	2017	2016	2018*	2017	2016
Russet Burbank	2,052	2,243	2,180	11,979	11,261	11,537
Eva	1,498	1,465	1,421	1,521	1,491	1,453
Goldrush	1,084	1,434	1,345	3,994	4,365	3,946
Shepody	829	905	699	1,722	1,767	1,766
Dakota Russet	767	498	na	814	529	na
Ranger Russet	628	709	615	1,703	1,902	1,708
Norland Dark Red	594	449	356	2,187	2,114	1,855
Kennebec	435	522	592	782	984	1,055
Superior	430	574	405	950	1,044	965
Atlantic	424	454	483	1,178	1,392	1,443
Highland Russet	416	280	na	646	451	na
Innovator	406	390	391	942	867	866
Chieftain	358	350	290	1,228	1,303	1,081
Dakota Pearl	213	153	75	452	397	189
Waneta	210	na	na	254	na	na
Electra	191	na	na	198	na	na
Yukon Gold	179	116	170	660	576	717
Clearwater Russet	161	159	na	379	257	na
Classic Russet	101	na	53	140	na	182
Yukon Gem	91	120	54	116	156	157
Purple Prince	85	120	23	183	127	140
Ivory Russet	84	25	na	369	na	na
Reba	77	na	na	129	na	na
Norvalley	73	na	na	73	na	na
Fabula	72	120	40	109	185	164
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	16,559	16,521	15,997	55,647	53,780	53,741

* Numbers provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as of October 26, 2018.

Individual variety information is only for those approved for release for marketing purposes.

While Russet Burbank continues to claim top spot in seed certification acres both nationally and locally, the acreage of new processing varieties continues to climb. A variety of fresh russet, round whites, reds, yellow and potato chip varieties round out the list of top seed acreage varieties. **With a combination of reduced seed acreage in some areas, reduced yields and some unharvested acreage, growers should be looking to book seed early.**

Many areas of North America have different requirements for seed imported for recertification or commercial planting. Please check with certification officials when exporting seed, or importing for planting on PEI in 2019, to ensure all testing requirements have been met.

United States Potato Production Estimate* (thousand cwt)

November 8, 2018 - Top Nine States

State	2016	2017	2018	Percent
Idaho	139,320	134,850	138,600	+2.8%
Washington	105,625	99,220	106,425	+7.3%
Wisconsin	27,840	28,475	26,800	-5.9%
North Dakota	21,600	24,420	23,725	-2.8%
Colorado	22,236	21,220	21,623	+1.8%
Oregon	22,951	21,395	28,458	+33.0%
Minnesota	16,800	18,428	18,060	-2.0%
Michigan	17,020	17,205	17,390	+1.1%
Maine	15,113	15,200	15,840	+4.2%
Total Fall Crop	406,638	400,565	417,482	+4.2%
Total U.S. Crop	441,411	442,034	452,619	+2.4%

* USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Nov 2018

Heath Coles Retires At Agriculture And Agri-Food Canada

After a 26-year career with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Heath Coles has retired as the Deputy Director of the department's Atlantic office of Market and Industry Services Branch in Charlottetown.

PEI Potato Board General Manager Greg Donald, Assistant General Manager Brenda Simmons and Seed Coordinator Mary Kay Sonier were among those attending a retirement send-off for Heath on October 29 at the Charlottetown Research and Development Centre.



Heath worked with the PEI Department of Agriculture for several years before moving to Truro, NS where he began his career with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Heath returned to the Island with AAFC in 1995 and has worked in Charlottetown ever since.

Since the late 1990s he has worked closely with the PEI Potato Board to support the potato industry in the province. "It's been great working with the PEI Potato Board over the years," he said. "I think we've had a very positive and cooperative working relationship."

That work has included incoming and outgoing trade missions, market development projects and dealing with some high-profile and challenging industry issues like potato wart and potato tampering.

The department has also helped bring keynote speakers to the Board's annual general meetings.

Greg said Heath has always been committed to the success of the sector. "Heath has provided tremendous service to our industry and done it with exemplary dedication, commitment and passion," he said. "Heath has a low-key manner but he produces big results."

Heath said he hasn't got any concrete plans for retirement yet. "Nothing specific, no," he said. "It's going to be exciting and different and I'm looking forward to it. But I'm also thankful to have had this opportunity to work in the department."

PEI Plant Diagnostic Lab 2018 Report

**Marleen Clark, P. Ag. Plant Disease Diagnostician,
PEI Analytical Laboratories, PEI Department Agriculture &
Fisheries, 23 Innovation Way, Charlottetown, PE C1E 0B7**

The 2018 potato growing season started with a cold, wet spring which delayed planting by approximately two weeks. As the spring progressed, some seed piece decay problems started to emerge on the cut surface of potato sets. Cold soil conditions and excessive moisture gave rise to Fusarium and bacterial seed infections. This season there were only a few Fusarium dry rot seed infections in comparison to previous years. The level of bacterial infections in the development of bacterial seed piece decay and blackleg was predominant this season. The bacterial soft rot seed decay started to show up in varieties such as Clearwater Russet, Hilite Russet, Satina, Nadine, and Red Norland.

There were no confirmed cases of late blight this season. Environmental conditions for development and spread of the late blight fungus were not conducive compared to previous years. The inoculum source was diminished as growers planted clean, disease free seed and disposed of

cull piles. Growers were vigilant and carried out husbandry management practices and followed an appropriate fungicide spray schedule.

Due to the extremely dry conditions in July and August, potato fields started to wilt and senesce earlier than anticipated. Potato varieties involved included Ranger Russet, Atlantic, Highland Russet, Red Norland, Ranger Russet, Prospect and more frequently Russet Burbank and Dakota Pearl. Dakota Pearl is known to be somewhat susceptible to the Early Dying Syndrome (EDS). Isolations from these potato samples confirmed the early dying fungi involved included *Rhizoctonia spp.* (Rhizoctonia Stem Girdling), *Fusarium spp.* (Fusarium Wilt), *Colletotrichum coccodes* (Black Dot), and *Verticillium spp.* (Verticillium Wilt). The black dot fungus is sometimes overlooked and can cause stem lesions and leaf spotting similar to an early blight infection in the foliage. Most of these fungi involved in the EDS infect potato tubers and can be passed on from year to year through potato seed.

Bacterial blackleg stem infections started to appear rapidly in August and cause some wilt-like symptoms. In a

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dry year, blackleg plants are stunted, yellow, and have dry, shrivelled infected black tissue around the base of the stem near the soil line. This blackish tissue will move upwards under humid conditions. The potato varieties involved included Russet Burbank, Dakota Russet and Dakota Pearl. The bacteria identified causing blackleg symptoms were *Pectobacterium atrosepticum* and *Pectobacterium wasabiae*.

A number of potato foliar symptoms were noted this season especially in the Ranger Russet, Highland Russet, and Russet Burbank varieties. Symptoms on the leaf tissue included small, blackish, pin-like lesions that were concentrated on the lower leaves and moving upwards. Isolations from the tissue confirmed the presence of the brown spot fungus, *Alternaria alternata*. The leaf tissue damage in these samples did resemble early blight lesions; however, no *Alternaria solani* spores were isolated from these samples. There may be several possible reasons for this, including the use of fungicides registered for control of early blight fungus allows the brown spot fungus to grow and colonize in the leaf tissue. Also due to the aggressive nature of the brown spot fungus, it will over grow the early blight fungus during the culturing process. The brown spot fungus is also very saprophytic to dead or dying plant tissue. More work will need to be completed to develop testing techniques for these two species of *Alternaria*.

Other potato diseases and disorders that showed up this season included heat sprouts, hail damage, bacterial soft rot, deep-pitted scab, *Rhizoctonia* black scurf and pink rot. The first confirmed case of pink rot was found in early October in a field of Prospect potatoes and was found to be sensitive to

the metalaxyl fungicide.

A potato tuber sample of scab was forwarded to Dr. Martin Fillion at the University of New Brunswick for a study to identify and characterize *Streptomyces* strains found here on Prince Edward Island. Common scab lesions can be superficial, raised, netted or deep-pitted.



Blackleg symptoms caused by Pectobacterium atrosepticum and P. wasabiae. Photo. M. Clark.

Storage rot diseases can be devastating and spread quickly in potato storage. With the excessive amount of rainfall received during the harvest period, growers should continue to monitor their facilities over the storage period. Proper storage management can minimize financial losses. Potatoes are over 80 percent water and are subject to breakdown if they are unable to breathe. During wet harvest conditions, potato tubers have the potential to be put into storage with a high percentage of soil adhering to them. Wet soil will clog the air spaces between potatoes and in turn can prevent proper airflow. If some tubers are infected with storage rot diseases, the soil adhering to the tubers can cause them to rot very quickly. Growers are encouraged to submit samples to the laboratory for analysis. Samples may be submitted at most Access PEI locations or directly to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory located in the PEI Analytical Laboratory, 23 Innovation Way in Charlottetown. Knowing what disease you are dealing with takes the guess work out of how to mitigate storage issues and applicable storage management strategies can be implemented early.



Left is a sample of potatoes suspected to be affected by Phytophthora erythroseptica, a soil borne organism causing pink rot, and right is the sample 30 minutes later showing the salmon pink colour that confirms the disease. Photos: Marleen Clark.

For more information on potato storage management consult with the Canadian Horticultural Council fact sheet “Control of Potato Storage Conditions for the Management of Post-harvest Losses due to Diseases.” https://hortcouncil.ca/.../Potato_Storage_Management_Fact_Sheet_English_Final.pdf

Other crops that the Plant Disease Diagnostic laboratory regularly deals with include Barley, Wheat, Oats, Soybean, Peas, Canola, Cole crops, Carrots, Onions, Raspberries, Apples and Blueberry.

Safe Food for Canadians Act

The Safe Food for Canadians Act regulations are scheduled to go into effect on January 15, 2019. There are still many clarifications and answers to questions to be provided as the process moves along. Implementation dates are staggered to recognize that this will be a transition process. A workshop for growers and packers was provided by CFIA in Charlottetown on November 21, 2018. Below is a summary of some key points for potato producers, dealers and exporters.

Please contact your CFIA inspector who has been trained in the new program for full details specific to your operation or refer to www.inspection.gc.ca/safefood.

Licensing

NOT Required:

- If all potatoes on the farm are grown, graded, packed and shipped within the province in which the farm is located.
- If all potatoes grown on the farm are shipped, scooped up, to be graded at another operation.

REQUIRED:

- If potatoes are graded and packed and labelled for shipment out of PEI.
- If potatoes are imported.

MANY PEI POTATO GROWERS AS WELL AS DEALERS AND EXPORTERS WILL REQUIRE A SAFE FOODS FOR CANADIANS LICENSE (SFC LICENSE).

For those with RPW certificates, this will become your license until the expiry date - before the expiry date the certificate holder will have to apply for a SFC License.

If you do not have an RPW number you will have to apply for a SFC License.

DRC membership is also required if you fall into the category of those requiring a SFC license.

Preventative Control Plan (PCP)

A documented Preventative Control Plan is required for businesses that:

- Grow or harvest fresh fruits and vegetables to be moved across provincial or territorial borders. (Producers)
- Manufacture, process, treat, preserve, grade, package or label food to be exported or sent across provincial or territorial borders. (Processors, packers/dealers/exporters)
- Import food (bulk or packaged)

A written PCP is not required if the business has \$100,000 or less in annual food sales but Preventative Controls are still required to be used (clarify with CFIA inspector).

Suggested steps for PEI Potato Farmers to comply with PCP requirement:

- Enrolment in the CanadaGAP food safety program.
- Contact your CFIA inspector to assess your PCP (which may include Canada GAP practices) and understand requirements for an acceptable PCP.

Traceability

Traceability requirements aim to track the movement of a food product one step forward and one step backward through the supply chain in order to protect Canadians during a food safety incident.

Traceability requirements apply to:

- If you grow or harvest fresh fruit and vegetables for interprovincial trade even if you do not require a license.
- Those with a SFC License and PCP (potato growers, packers, dealers, exporters); as well as
- Retail stores
- Distributors who trade inter-provincially

But does not apply to food service operations.

If traceability requirements apply, a label must be applied, attached to or accompany the food when it is provided to another person. The label must include: the common name, name and principal place of business of the person by or for whom the product was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, packaged or labelled, and a lot code or unique identifier.

It is the responsibility of the license holder to meet the traceability requirement back to the person who is providing the raw product.

Specific details on labelling requirements for packaged goods, information to be documented, and the format of documentation are available from CFIA.

Exporting (outside of Canada including the United States)

- Ensure that their food is manufactured, processed, treated, preserved, packaged and labelled by a CFIA license holder.
- Meet Canadian requirements as well as foreign country requirements.
- For food that does not meet Canadian requirements, have written documents that substantiate the foreign requirements have been met and clearly labelled for export.
- Keep clear and complete traceability records.

C-PIQ

C-PIQ Participation Agreements will remain valid until August 31, 2019 and C-PIQ fees will continue to apply. C-PIQ manuals must be reviewed and adjusted to meet preventative control program (PCP) requirements.

Timeline for Potato Industry Members to Whom the Safe Food for Canadians Act Applies:

Licensing: January 15, 2019.

Preventative Control Plan: January 15, 2019 - Processed fruits or vegetables
January 15, 2020 - Fresh fruits and vegetables.

Traceability: January 15, 2019 - Processed and graded and packaged fresh fruits and vegetables.
January 15, 2020 - Those solely growing and harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables.

For full timeline details (including exceptions for the dates provided above) and interactive tools go online to:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/sfcr/timelines/eng/1528199762125/1528199763186>

Cavendish Farms 2018 PEI Top 10 Growers



First row from left to right: Jubs Bristow, Vice President Agricultural, Cavendish Farms; David Sweet, Sweet Farms Inc. (9th place); Shawn Birch, Birch Farms Ltd. (6th place); Chris MacAulay, MacAulay Farms Inc. (1st place); Ralph Rennie, Bloise Rennie Farms Ltd. (2nd place); Karl Smallman, Triple S Farms, Ltd. (3rd place); and Robert K. Irving, President, Cavendish Farms.

Second row from left to right: Andy Toombs, Bedeque Farms Ltd. (4th place); Kevin Murray, Murray Farms Ltd. (10th place); Gordon McKenna, Country View Farms Ltd. (5th place); Andrew Lawless, R & L Farms Inc. (7th place) and Troy Rennie, Dock Corner Farms Ltd. (8th place).



2018 Season Report by Santina Beaton, FFC Coordinator

Farm & Food Care PEI was launched in late 2017 and is a coalition of farmers, agriculture and food partners and government working together to provide credible information on food and farming. Farm & Food Care PEI has been active this past year in promotion, education, program development and consumer outreach. Ontario was the first province to launch Farm & Food Care in 2012 followed by Saskatchewan in 2014 and Prince Edward Island is the third Canadian province to launch the organization. Below is an update provided this October on activities over the past season.

- Currently FFCPEI have advertisements with bus, transit shelters and the Salty.
- Had a CFCY radio ad with Eric McEwen during the months of July and August.
- Held a June Photo Contest and the winner was Lori Robinson. Two local produce baskets were created, one for the winner of the photo contest and a second that was donated to the Upper Room Food Bank.
- FFCPEI's website (www.farmfoodcarepei.org) continues to be updated regularly.
- FFCPEI's local twitter (@FarmFoodCarePEI) page is active daily and now has 329 followers.
- We have created a new Facebook (Farm & Food Care PEI) and Instagram page (@farmfoodcarepei).
- Through the Canada Summer Jobs Program, we were able to hire a summer student for 7 weeks. We hired Carleigh MacLeod for the period of July 14th – August 31st. She was a tremendous help for Farm & Food Care staff and events.
- A three-year contract for Farm & Food Care PEI has been signed as of August 16th. It includes funding for \$300,000 over the course of three years to employ the FFCPEI Coordinator, membership to the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity, to complete FFCPEI initiatives, and travel expenses.
- Farm and Food Care PEI's first annual Breakfast on the Farm was hosted at Crasdale Farms Inc. in South Rustico on Saturday, August 4, 2018 and it was a huge success. Over six hundred people took advantage of this excellent opportunity to visit a modern dairy farm, enjoy a PEI sourced breakfast, learn about farming and where our food comes from, see lots of agricultural displays and enjoy children's activities. Coffee was offered to attendees in exchange for a donation to PEI 4H resulting in a \$284.00 donation to the PEI 4H Trust.
- Farm & Food Care Staff attended multiple local fairs and exhibitions around the Island this summer.
- Open Farm Day took place on Sunday, September 16th. Farm & Food Care PEI was invited to take part with Kool Breeze Farms for Open Farm Day activities between 12pm – 5pm.
- The Great Big BBQ took place on September 26th from 6pm - 9pm at the PEI Brewing Company as part of PEI Fall Flavours. We were invited to have our Farm & Food Care PEI booth at the event.
- We attended Farm Day in the City on September 30th from 11am – 5pm with our booth, promotional materials and informational farming videos to help promote Farm & Food Care PEI and Island food.
- To date the Real Dirt on Farming PEI Digest and Canadian version have been circulated to Farmer's Markets, Tractor Safety Day in Kensington, 6,500 copies inserted into the June Edition of the Salty, Public Library Services, High Schools across the Island, the Farm Centre and at our booth during events.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Continue to attend Food Marketing group meetings.
- Attending Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's Public Trust Summit in Quebec on November 13th -14th.
- Planning a farm media tour or media panel.
- Preparing for a Strategic Planning meeting in late November for the Steering Committee.
- Continue to investigate and plan for a Farm & Food Care billboard next fiscal year in time for tourist season.

An Update From the:

PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



After an unfavourable and bizarre growing season; we've just come through what can only be called the most challenging harvest many can remember. It was heart-warming to see farmers lending one another a helping hand with equipment, employees and time. Hopefully, you're aware you also had the support of the non-farming community. During those days, conversations at the local corner stores turned to concern for the farming community. The habitual weather discussions were inevitably followed by expressions of apprehension for farmers. Hopefully your spirits were lifted when you sensed the collective empathy that non-farming Islanders held for your plight.

With harvest essentially wrapped up, it's time to focus on the next season in the potato farming cycle – storage. After acknowledging the challenging harvest season, it's difficult to now contemplate potential problems in storage. Although it has been a few years since we have dealt with storage issues, most people already recognize the warning signs that indicate the need for more diligent management in the upcoming storage season.

Here's what we might expect as culprits of storage issues resulting from the 2018 season:

- Jelly end rot/sugar ends
- Pink rot
- Bacterial soft rot/blackleg
- Pink eye
- Pythium leak
- Chilled or frozen potatoes
- Water-soaked potatoes
- Bruised potatoes

Over the past few years, PEI growers have become much more knowledgeable and diligent about potato storage management. That being said, what follows is a refresher.

It goes without saying that potato storages need to be checked daily and in person; whether a problem is anticipated or not. Here is a checklist for daily warehouse visits:

Sensory Observations:

- Is there condensation on the walls, ceiling or on the top of the pile?
- Are there depressions in the pile?
- Are there fruit flies?
- Is there a foul odour (like ammonia)?

- Is there water on the floor?
- Are there rotten potatoes in the pile (3% or more; or an increase over time)?
- Are there air flow leaks in/out of the building (intakes, doors)?
- Are there any obstructions in air flow?

If the answer is yes to any of those questions, immediate action must be taken. More subtle storage issues can be detected by taking daily and accurate readings of conditions in your warehouse. Keeping a log of these will help you notice changes that could signal problems in the bin.

Measure & Record:

- Relative humidity or RH (with a psychrometer)
 - Desired RH depends on crop condition (85%-90% for wet, leaky potatoes; 92%-97% for dry healthy tubers). Once holding temperature is reached, look to maintain consistent RH.
- Temperature – inside storage and outside (use a calibrated handheld thermometer)
 - Desired temp depends on crop condition and end use (about 50F for processing potatoes; 35F for table and seed). Avoid temperature fluctuations once holding temperature is reached.
- Carbon dioxide concentration (use a CO2 sensor)
 - Should be between 1000 and 2000 parts per million; purge if higher.
- Air flow (use a Kestrel or other air flow meter)
 - Desired air flow is a minimum of 20 cubic feet per minute (CFM) per tonne; or 1 cubic foot per minute per cwt of potatoes

ACTIONS TO TAKE IF STORAGE PROBLEMS ARISE

If your daily inspection turns up problems, they must be addressed immediately to avoid storage losses. If you notice condensation on the pile, a smell of ammonia, or greater than 2% rotten tubers; you need to dry the pile. This can be achieved through dehumidifiers and heaters, and by bringing in fresher and drier air from outside.

Diseased or rotting potatoes have higher rates of respiration, and will require more ventilation. Depending on the severity of the rot, targeted relative humidity should be

around 85% (do not allow relative humidity to drop below 80%). Respiration is minimized at temperature of 45F, and temperatures 45F and lower will inhibit disease spread in the pile. Temperatures above 50F will increase the risk of the pile completely breaking down.

The use of electrical heaters can greatly reduce drying time. By placing a heater in the storage, you warm the return air, which will trigger your control system to bring in fresh air to maintain the plenum temperature. The heater will also increase the air temperature which will help reduce condensation since warm air holds more moisture than cold air. Closely monitor the situation and seek additional advice from storage experts and other consultants when necessary.

RECONDITIONING FOR PROCESSING QUALITY

Low temperatures at harvest have probably caused an increase in reducing sugars which leads to poor fry colour. There are steps you can take to improve colour (i.e. gradually warming the pile), but keep in mind the process can take several weeks, and is not guaranteed. Additionally, you need to consider the risk of disease spread at higher temperatures. It's best to speak with your processor's storage consultant and take colour samples before, during and after the reconditioning process.

Making one change to the storage environment can affect several other parameters. Be sure to follow recommendations for the end use market (seed /table/ processing), and remember that some varieties can have their own storage management recommendations (ex Shepody can handle warmer storage temperatures than Russet Burbank). Consult variety management profiles for specific recommendations.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- A Thermal Imaging Camera is a handy device that you can find at hardware/home improvement stores for a couple hundred dollars, and it could save you thousands. Rotten potatoes generate a lot of heat, and you can detect "hot spots" in the pile, but you can also detect temperature differences where condensation will accumulate.
- Remember that when you make a change in any settings on your system (temperature, fan speed, relative humidity, etc) it can have an effect on the whole system since the computer has been instructed to maintain set points.
- DO NOT USE kerosene heaters in processing warehouses as they have a negative impact on colour.

- Consider taking weekly pictures of the pile with your phone – you can refer to these as the season progresses to determine if more rot is present or if you've been successful at drying up leakers.

Sources:

Control of Potato Storage Conditions for the Management of Post-Harvest Losses due to Diseases. Khalil Al-Mughrabi. Canadian Horticultural Council online resources.

Potato Storage Management Course Materials. Dr. Robert Coffin, Jonathan Waugh & Dave Delodder

POTATO STORAGE INSURANCE – AIC

Many producers are signed up for the Storage Program under their agricultural insurance policy. This program covers 70%-80% of your saleable inventory (depending on your choice of coverage) as of December 21st. Your storage guarantee is established on December 21st by your agent who will measure the pile and apply cullage rates determined at harvest and according to the end use for the crop. Producers should notify their agents immediately if a storage problem is noticed that could lead to a shortfall in stored inventory. If potatoes have been delivered, provide your agent with actual grade slips that give the most accurate estimate of cullage.

AGRISTABILITY EXTENSION

Through the Advance Payment Program, most producers are already signed up for the Agristability Program. However, if you have not yet participated, the deadline has been extended and you still have time to enroll. Call the Agriculture Insurance Corporation at 902-836-8912 or toll free 1-855-251-9695.

2018 SEED POTATO GUIDE

The 2018 guides have been printed and hard copies have been sent out. If you haven't received your copy or you would like additional copies, they are available at the Department of Agriculture, the PEI Potato Board, and online on the PEIDAF website and the PEI Potato Board website. As well the PEI Potato Board offers a "Seed Available for Sale" listing where growers can advertise seed volumes they have available for sale.

PESTICIDE CEC TRAINING

The schedule of dates for attending Continuing Education Credit training for pesticide license renewals has been set, as well as the schedule of one-day course with exam. For more information or to register, call Muriel Power at 902-368-4154.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Canadian Plant Health Council Launched

October 12, 2018 – Ottawa, Ontario - Collaboration between Canadian governments, industry, academia and other partners in plant health is essential to protect our resources from new and emerging risks, drive innovation and ensure that Canadian industry remains competitive and sustainable.

Plant health partners in Canada are pleased to announce the establishment of the Canadian Plant Health Council – fulfilling a multi-partner commitment to collaboratively implement the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada. The Canadian Plant Health Council will address priorities for the plant health sector, working together on preventive approaches and activities to protect forests, agriculture and other plants from pests, diseases and other risks.

The council consists of 11 members from national industry associations, academia and federal, provincial and territorial governments representing the plant health sector in agriculture and forestry. The council will develop a focused work plan and over the next 2 years, advance key priorities, demonstrating what can be achieved through collaboration between governments, industry, and academia.

The agriculture and agri-food industry is an important driver in today's economy, contributing over \$110 billion annually to Canada's gross domestic product, and has been identified as one of Canada's key growth sectors.

The Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada is an action-oriented strategy focused on risk prevention and collaboration among partners in plant and animal health. It was endorsed in 2017 by all partners, including federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture. A significant first step towards implementation was to establish the 2 separate coordinating councils for plant and animal health. These councils will provide leadership in prioritizing and implementing the potential activities outlined in the strategy.

"Agriculture is vital to Canada's economy. The establishment of the Canadian Plant Health Council is an important step in the prevention of risks to our plant resources, as well as in the protection of our plant health. As a farmer, I understand the value of partnerships. Together we can identify and work to advance key priorities to maximize economic opportunities in agriculture," says the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

"Fruits and vegetables are very sensitive to new pests and disease. The Canadian Plant Health Council's ability to

coordinate an effective national response to such threats is extremely relevant to our industry, as consumers demand high quality produce." - Brian Gilroy, President, Canadian Horticultural Council.

For more information please contact: CFIA Media Relations, 613-773-6600.

Cavendish Farms Recognizes Its Top Growers on PEI and First Cavendish Farms Growing Green Award Also Presented

November 28, 2018. Charlottetown, P.E.I. – Cavendish Farms hosted its 31st Annual Growers' Banquet on Friday, November 23. Growers from across Prince Edward Island, as well as from New Brunswick, gathered together as the growing season came to an end. The banquet celebrates the contributions of local farmers, recognizes the top growers of 2017-2018, and this year, included the inaugural Cavendish Farms Growing Green Award.

MacAulay Farms Inc. was recognized as Top Grower for 2017-2018. MacAulay Farms is from Chepstow, near Souris. Chris MacAulay and his father Paul operate the farm. Chris



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Featuring open top and discharge outlet base

SWL: 2500 lbs

13/14 Vented stripes per side and base

4 Corner Lifting Loops

Bag size: 38x43x62" Int.

CD \$9.79/bag + tax

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90 Linton Avenue, Stratford, Ontario Canada. N5A 0B1

is a fourth-generation farmer and represents a heritage of over 100 years of farming. Chris and his wife Lisa accepted the award in front of 330 people at the banquet.

The first annual Cavendish Farms Growing Green Award was presented to Spud Limited for having demonstrated significant attention to environmental sustainability in potato farming. Carson Adams accepted the award on behalf of Spud Ltd. Carson works with his father Bruce Adams. Carson is the third generation in the family business representing over 50 years of farming.

“Too often, people don’t understand all the work that farmers do to take care of the environment. Cavendish Farms and its contract growers are committed to the environment,” said Jubs Bristow, Vice President of Agriculture for Cavendish Farms. “That is why we established the Cavendish Farms Growing Green Award a year ago, to help growers demonstrating environmental leadership get the recognition and support they deserve.”

It is no secret that the 2018 season was another difficult one for Island growers due to challenging weather events. The lack of rain in the summer threatened the crop and impacted both the quality and the size of potatoes. The fall’s heavy rain and early snow significantly impacted harvest,

resulting in difficult conditions, lower yields, and crops stuck frozen in the ground. During the evening, many speakers noted the selflessness of farmers to get as many acres harvested as possible. “It was a very challenging season, but growers came together and helped one another,” said Robert K. Irving, President of Cavendish Farms. “We depend on PEI growers to provide quality products for our customers. On behalf of everyone at Cavendish Farms, thank you for your outstanding efforts!”

This tough year for Island farmers also impacts Cavendish Farms. Growers aren’t the only ones feeling the impact of the changing climate. The poor results from this year’s harvest means Cavendish Farms will need to import millions of pounds of potatoes to fulfill its contracts.

“We’ve witnessed it again this year,” said Mr. Irving. “Climate is changing, and we need to take action. Agriculture is the backbone of Prince Edward Island’s economy. Government, growers, industry and scientists need to work together to find solutions that will ensure the long-term viability of the potato industry.”

Cavendish Farms is an Island-born company – proudly part of Canada’s largest potato producing province for over 40 years. Today it accounts for over 2,900 direct, indirect and induced year-round jobs on PEI that provide an estimated \$127 million in related wages (2017 data). In 2017, it purchased over \$310 million in local goods and services from Island businesses.



A reception was held on October 25 to wish Robert and Joyce Coffin well on their recent move to Ontario. Robert worked for 19 years for Cavendish Farms as head of the Research Program and he and Joyce are also potato breeders with their biggest success to date being Prospect Russet. They are moving to Ontario to be closer to their daughters and grandchildren and of course will continue potato breeding on a small scale. Above: Greg Donald, General Manger of the PEI Potato Board (left) and Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (right) present the Coffins with a photograph taken by potato farmer Bryan Maynard as a memento of their many years working in the PEI Potato Industry. (Photo: M.K. Sonier).

Syngenta receives registration for Vibrance Ultra

Guelph, Ontario, Canada, November 5, 2018

- Syngenta Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the registration of Vibrance® Ultra Potato as a new seed piece treatment for the suppression of pink rot and control of key seed- and soil borne diseases, including late blight.

The new potato seed treatment, Vibrance Ultra Potato is a pre-mix formulation with three modes of action. It suppresses pink rot to help prevent breakdown in storage; controls late blight, Fusarium dry rot, seed-borne silver scurf, and seed-borne black scurf, stem, and stolon canker.

Vibrance Ultra Potato combines difenoconazole (Group 3), sedaxane (Group 7), and mandipropamid (Group 40) in a convenient liquid pre-mix formulation. It protects potato seed pieces and seedlings to help ensure strong stand establishment, so the crop gets off to the best possible start.

“Vibrance Ultra Potato will help producers to start strong and finish strong,” says Shaun Vey, Seedcare and Inoculants Product Lead with Syngenta Canada. “During the cutting and treating phase, it helps prevent the spread of seed borne late blight

from infected seed to healthy seed. After planting, it moves within the plant, providing protection from diseases such as seed borne silver scurf, Fusarium dry rot, and seed-borne black scurf, stem, and stolon canker (Rhizoctonia), as well as suppression of pink rot.”

Vey says the registration of Vibrance Ultra Potato is a strong addition to the Syngenta potato portfolio, giving growers an excellent liquid fungicide-only option.

Vibrance Ultra Potato also gives growers greater flexibility when treating their seed pieces. The unique Vibrance Ultra Potato jug features a built in second container with a colourant, so growers can visually evaluate coverage of seed pieces and also consider additional pest protection by mixing it with colourless formulations, such as Fortenza® insecticide for control of Colorado potato beetle, if needed.

As per the label, Vibrance Ultra Potato should be applied at a rate of 32 mL/100 kg of seed. Each case contains 4 x 4.8 L + 4 x 0.8 L (colourant) jugs. One jug will treat 330.6 cwt. For more information about Vibrance Ultra Potato insecticide, please visit Syngenta.ca, contact your local Syngenta Representative or our Customer Interaction Centre at 1 87 SYNGENTA (1 877 964 3682).

Minister MacAulay leads Canadian Delegation at the China International Import Expo

November 6, 2018 – Shanghai, China – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Canada and China have a longstanding partnership and our commercial relations continue to grow. Canada is diversifying into fast-growing Asian markets to open up new opportunities for a wide range of Canadian businesses, which is an important part of creating new jobs and economic growth that will further strengthen Canada’s middle class.

Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, is currently in Shanghai participating in the International Import Expo (CIIE) which runs from November 5-10, 2018. Participating in the expo represents the importance that Canada places on expanding our trade relationship with China. The expo will showcase the high-quality products and services that Canada has to offer and will provide Canadian businesses from across various sectors with new opportunities to grow and expand.

Minister MacAulay witnessed important signing ceremonies between Canadian companies and Chinese companies, worth an industry-estimated \$620 million Canadian dollars. Agreements signed represent the growing diversity of Canada’s trade and investment relationship with China, as deals were signed in sectors ranging from agri-food to aerospace to life sciences and transportation.

Canada was designated as one of twelve countries of honour at the CIIE. The Canadian National Pavilion includes federal, provincial and territorial partners, and Canadian businesses. Apart from the National Pavilion, dozens

of Canadian companies will participate in the Business Exhibition.

“Canada is a trading nation that is focused on growing trade relationships, including diversifying into new and rapidly growing markets like China. I am proud to participate in the Expo to build upon current friendships, as well as establish new friendships with government counterparts and business partners in China. These relationships will help to expand opportunities for Canadian businesses, including exporters, farmers and processors.” commented the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Approximately 50 Canadian exhibitors are part of the Canadian Pavilion at CIIE. The 2017 agricultural trade mission to China generated over \$300 million in new sales – blueberries, barley, ice wine and swine genetics.

Syngenta Launches Minecto Pro Insecticide In Potatoes, Fruit And Vegetable Crops

Guelph, Ontario, Canada, November 13, 2018 - Syngenta Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the launch of Minecto® Pro foliar-applied insecticide for broad-spectrum control of key pests in potatoes, apples, pears, and a variety of vegetable crops.

- Registered in potatoes for control of Colorado potato beetle, European corn borer, spider mite,

AIM Winter Workshops

Nitrogen Management

with Dr. David Burton
Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

- Split Application
- Assessing soil N before planting
- Calculating N credits from crops/manure
- Slow release products

Mon, Jan 14th (1 pm): Mill River Resort
Tues, Jan 15th (9 am): Riverhouse Inn, Montague
Tues, Jan 15th (1:30 pm): Boxcar Pub, Emerald

All growers and AIM partners welcome!



Agronomy
Initiative for
Marketable Yield

potato psyllid, and flea beetle

- Controls key chewing and sucking pests including codling and Oriental fruit moth, leafrollers, and mites, in apples and pears
- Also registered to control labelled pests in various vegetable crops

Minecto Pro delivers rapid activity through two complementary active ingredients – abamectin (Group 6) and cyantraniliprole (Group 28). Both active ingredients use translaminar movement within the plant to achieve excellent coverage, providing a reservoir of activity for extended residual control of targeted pests to help keep crops healthier, longer.

“The introduction of Minecto Pro offers potato growers the strength of cyantraniliprole, bolstered by abamectin, to protect their crop from Colorado potato beetle,” says Sam Livesey, Commercial Projects Lead with Syngenta Canada.

Minecto Pro is also registered for control of European corn borer, spider mite, potato psyllid, and flea beetle in potatoes. In apples and pears, Minecto Pro provides effective control of a number of key pests, including labelled species of mites, aphids, and leafminers, plus economically important lepidopteran species, including codling moth, and Oriental fruit moth.

“The formulation of Minecto Pro gives apple and pear growers a simple solution for protection from a number of sucking and chewing pests, without the requirement of mixing products to target multiple pests,” Livesey says.

An adjuvant must be used with Minecto Pro. The liquid formulation can also be easily tank-mixed with several fungicides, including Aprovia® Top and Orondis® Ultra.

Minecto Pro will be available for the 2019 season and will be sold in 4 x 3.78 L jugs. *For more information about Minecto Pro insecticide, please visit Syngenta.ca, contact your local Syngenta Representative or our Customer Interaction*



Centre at 1 87 SYNGENTA (1 877 964 3682). Always read and follow label directions. Aprovia®, Minecto®, Orondis® and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. © 2018 Syngenta.

Upcoming Events

Please call the Board at (902) 892-6551 for further information on any of these events.

December 2018

Dec 11-13 **New York Produce Show.** Javitz Convention Centre, New York City.

January 2019

Jan 9 **Potato Business Summit,** Austin, Texas. (United Potato Growers)

Jan 9-10 **NPC Potato Expo,** Austin, Texas.

Jan 14 **AIM Workshop,** Mill River Resort.

Jan 15 **Aim Workshop,** Riverhouse Inn, Montague.

Jan 15 **AIM Workshop,** Boxcar Pub, Emerald.

Jan 25 **PEI Federation of Agriculture 78th Annual General Meeting.**

Jan 29 **United Potato Growers of Canada Seminar.** Charlottetown, PEI

February 2019

Feb 7 **Potatoes New Brunswick Conference,** AYR Motor Centre, Woodstock, NB.

Feb 19-20 **PEI Potato Conference and Awards Banquet.** Charlottetown, PEI.

Feb 26-27 **PEI Soil & Crops Meeting and Banquet.** Charlottetown, PEI

March 2019

Mar 4 **Canadian Potato Council meeting.** Halifax, NS.

Mar 5-7 **Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting.** Halifax, NS.

2019 Potato Conference and Banquet



Photo: Linda Matheson-Ford



A new event for the PEI Potato Industry **SAVE THE DATE! February 19-20, 2019** **2019 PEI Potato Conference & Banquet**

Conference & Tradeshow –
Red Shores Racetrack & Casino, Charlottetown
Banquet, February 19 – Delta Prince Edward

The PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the PEI Potato Board are excited to launch this new event featuring:

- *Top notch speakers focusing on Row Widths, Seed Management, Alternative Irrigation Technology, Digital Innovation, Farmer Mental Health and more!*
- *Enhanced Tradeshow*
- *Local researchers sharing recent work and practical applications*
- *A banquet not to be missed!*

Watch the PEI Potato Agronomy and PEIDAF websites for more info! Register for the conference and/or banquet by calling the PEI Potato Board **902-892-6551** or email karen@peipotato.org

Registration Deadline:
February 13, 2019



High Quality Seed Potatoes for Market Gardens from Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm

AC Chaleur

A nice round first early with bright, white skin.



Eramosa

Very early. Oblong tubers with great eating quality.



Irish Cobbler

An Island favourite at the roadside stands.



Eva

A maincrop round white that stores well and has a nice skin.



Norland Dark Red

Early maturing, round shape, red skin with white flesh, a customer favourite.



Caribe

Early maturing, high yielding with bright purple skin and creamy, white flesh.



Goldrush

Early to midseason russet variety. Nice type and look with excellent eating quality.



Yukon Gold

A consumer favourite for its excellent eating quality and versatility.



Early generation seed ensuring a good start for growing high quality, vigorous plants.
Sold in 50 pound sacks with Canadian Food Inspection Agency Elite 3 certified seed tags.
Contact Mary Kay (902) 892-6551; mary@peipotato.org or Mark at (902) 853-5490; markpridham@peipotato.org

Here's to the **GROWER**

From all of us at FCC, thanks
for making Canadian agriculture
so amazing.

#HeresToCdnAg   

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